

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein a first application workload executes on a first server cluster having a first domain and the remote location includes a second domain having a second server cluster running a second application workload further comprising:

monitoring execution of the first application workload ~~on the subset of server nodes assigned to execute the first application workload~~ to determine whether the performance requirements for execution of the first application workload specified in the service level agreement will continue to be met; and

responsive to a determination that the performance requirements for execution of the first application workload will not continue to be met, sending a request to the second domain to assign one or more of the plurality of server nodes in the second server cluster at the second domain to the execution of the first application workload.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, further comprising:

receiving a counter offer from the remote location ~~second domain~~, the counter offer specifying one or more of a different number of server nodes than the number of server nodes requested, a different duration for the number of server nodes requested, and a different dollar value for the request.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

sending a response to the remote location ~~second domain~~, the response indicating acceptance or rejection of the counter offer from the remote location ~~second domain~~.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~55~~ 34, further comprising:

receiving a refusal from the remote location ~~second domain~~ denying the request, the refusal from the remote location ~~second domain~~ being based upon evaluation of an impact on a service level agreement negotiated for an ~~the second~~ application workload executing on the remote location ~~second server cluster at the second domain~~ if the request was granted.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~35~~ 34, wherein responsive to a determination that the performance requirements for execution of the first application workload are not being met, the method further comprises:

sending a request to a third domain to assign one or more of a plurality of server nodes in a third server cluster at the third domain to the execution of the first application workload, wherein a third application workload is executing on the third server cluster at the third domain while the first application workload is executing on the first server cluster at the first domain, and

wherein the request sent to the third domain specifies a number of server nodes requested, a duration in which the number of server nodes requested will be needed, and a dollar value associated with the request.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving a first counter offer from the second domain, the first counter offer specifying one or more of a different number of server nodes than the number of server nodes requested, a different duration for the number of server nodes requested, and a different dollar value for the request; and

receiving a second counter offer from the third domain, the second counter offer specifying one or more of a different number of server nodes than the number of server nodes requested, a different duration for the number of server nodes requested, and a different dollar value for the request, wherein what is specified in the first counter offer differs from what is specified the second counter.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising:  
sending a first response to the second domain, the first response indicating acceptance or rejection of the first counter offer from the second domain; and  
sending a second response to the third domain, the second response indicating acceptance or rejection of the second counter offer from the third domain.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:  
receiving a refusal from the third domain denying the request, the refusal from the third domain being based upon evaluation of an impact on a service level agreement negotiated for the third application workload executing on the third server cluster at the third domain if the request was granted.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the dollar value associated with the request is a penalty specified in the service level agreement negotiated for the ~~first~~ application workload.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the dollar value associated with the request is a payment amount for the number of server nodes requested.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the first application workload is a transaction application workload.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the transaction application workload comprises stock trades.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the remote location executes ~~second application workload~~ is a parallel application workload.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the parallel application

workload involves optimization of a stock portfolio.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the ~~first~~ application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises throughput requirements.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the ~~first~~ application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises response time requirements.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the ~~first~~ application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises availability requirements.

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the ~~first~~ application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises downtime requirements.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein the service level agreement ~~negotiated with the client~~ for the ~~first~~ application workload further specifies penalty functions when the service level agreement is violated.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55 34, wherein monitoring execution of the ~~first~~ application workload on the subset of server nodes assigned to execute the first application workload comprises:

monitoring one or more of a transaction rate, a transaction response time, availability of a server node, and utilization of a server node.

Please add the following new claims.

55. (New) A method for supporting an application workload using a resource at a remote location, the method comprising:

assigning a subset of a plurality of server nodes to execute the application workload;

executing the application workload on the assigned server nodes;

monitoring execution of the application workload to determine whether a threshold of a performance requirement of a service level agreement specifying performance requirements for execution of the application workload is met;

responsive to a determination that the threshold is not being met sending a request for at least one server node at the remote location wherein the request specifies a number of nodes requested, a time duration for which the requested nodes are needed, and a dollar value associated with the request; and

adjusting the threshold to provide an adjusted threshold for a further threshold determination whether the adjusted threshold is met in order to prevent oscillation between increasing and decreasing the number of server nodes.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising adjusting the threshold in accordance with a time parameter.

57. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising the remote location reclaiming a server node assigned to the execution of the first application workload for an assigned time duration in response to the request to the second domain prior to the end of the assigned duration in accordance with a performance requirement of the remote domain.